

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 05857 050612Z

12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTI-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05

SIL-01 LAB-04 /055 W

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R 041630Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4816

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, NL

SUBJ: US-GON CIVAIR TALKS-EFFORTS TO DEFUSE DUTCH EMOTIONS

REF: HAGUE 5442

BEGIN SUMMARY: R.J.H. KRUISINGA (FLOOR LEADER OF C.H.U. ONE OF PARTIES USUALLY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT) CALLED ON AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 4 TO REGISTER AGAIN (REFTEL) HIS SINCERE CONCERN THAT USG BE MADE FULLY AWARE THAT ANY ACTION BY USG TO CURB KLM OPERATIONS WILL RESULT IN AN EMOTIONAL AND RELATIONS-DAMAGING REACTION ON THE PART OF ALL DUTCHMEN INCLUDING WHOLE SPECTRUM OF DUTCH POLITICAL PARTIES. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING LOGIC OF AMBASSADOR'S DEFENSE OF US POSITIONS ON EXCESS CAPACITY AND SIXTH FREEDOM TRAFFIC AND WHILE AGREEING THAT GON-US RELATIONS SHOULD BE BASED ON REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF THE FACTS, KRUISINGA SAID ANY CUTBACK IN KLM BUSINESS WOULD AFFECT A LOT OF WORKERS AND NO DUTCH POLITICIAN WOULD BE ABLE TO PREVAIL AGAINST THE EMOTIONAL PUBLIC OUTCRY THAT WOULD DEVELOP. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD GREATLY HELP ALL CONCERNED IF CIVAIR ISSUES COULD BE DEALT WITH ON THEIR MERITS AND WITHOUT RESORT TO EMOTIONALISM. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 THE HA 05857 050612Z

1. KRUSINGA SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT USG UNDERSTAND IMPORTANCE TO NETHERLANDS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS FROM TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO OFFSET CHRONIC TRADE DEFICIT (E.G. NETHERLANDS IS US'S SIXTH LARGEST TRADE MARKET AND ONE WITH WHICH US ENJOYS AN ANNUAL TRADE SURPLUS OF ALMOST \$2 BILLION) AND HE HOPED USG FULLY APPRECIATED STRONG DUTCH BELIEF THAT KLM SHOULD HAVE FREELY COMPETITIVE ACCESS TO PASSENGERS.

2. AMBASSADOR REVIEWED US POSITION ON EXCESS CAPACITY WITHIN MEANING OF BILATERAL AND CITED URGENT NEED TO CUT OPERATIONAL DEFICITS OF BOTH PANAM AND KLM AND TO CONSERVE LARGE AMOUNT OF FUEL BEING EXPENDED TO FLY EMPTY SEATS ACROSS NORTH ATLANTIC. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT SENIOR US OFFICIALS WERE AWARE OF DUTCH CONCERNS OVER BILATERAL AIR ISSUE AND SAID USG AND EMBASSY WERE HOPEFUL THAT ISSUES COULD BE RESOLVED ON THEIR LOGICAL MERITS WITHIN CONTEXT OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT AND WITHOUT RESORT TO EMOTIONAL OUTBURSTS.

3. EMBASSY HAS SOUGHT IN CONVERSATIONS WITH LEADING DUTCH OFFICIALS TO DEFUSE EMOTIONAL CONTENT OF CIVAIR ISSUES BY CITING AIRLINE DEFICITS, EXCESS CAPACITY, AND ENERGY CRISIS. FAVORABLE ARTICLE APPEARED IN HET PAROOL NOVEMBER 28 BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR. FURTHER EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION WILL INCLUDE: FOREIGN MINISTRY STATE SECRETARY BRINKHORST DECEMBER 4 AT LUNCHEON ATTENDED BY AMBASSADOR AND DCM; AMBASSADORIAL CALL ON KLM PRESIDENT ORLANDINI DECEMBER 5 AND DCM CALL ON MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND WATERWAYS WESTERTERP DECEMBER 5. FOLLOWING THESE INTERVIEWS, EMBASSY WILL SUBMIT REASSESSMENT ROUNDUP DECEMBER 6.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, CIVIL AVIATION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, AVIATION REGULATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Line Count:** 94  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** HAGUE 5442  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US-GON CIVAIR TALKS-EFFORTS TO DEFUSE DUTCH EMOTIONS  
**TAGS:** EAIR, ELAB, NL, US, KLM  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005